Knowledge Finder® Update

from Aries Systems Corporation

Debra Ann Hanks, MD
Knowledge Finder™
November 1, 1990   Authorized Dealer

We moved, AGAIN!

Cousin Tom did the movie, we almost did the deed. We just left the "MONEY PIT". According to professionals, our home was sliding on its foundation. Rather than "ride it out" we moved--again!!!

Please note, effective November 1, 1990 our second "NEW" address for this year is:

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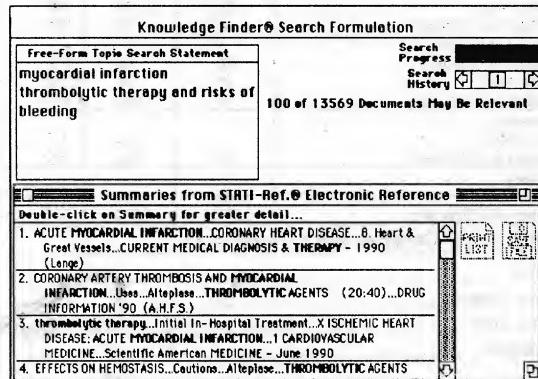### *Knowledge Finder*® STAT!-Ref.® Announced--Shipping NOW!

A full text medical reference library is now available via Knowledge Finder. Beta users report that high quality search results provide instant access to an entire medical reference CD-ROM bookshelf.

The full text STAT!-Ref. library provides 100% compatibility with other Knowledge Finder systems when purhcased from your Knowledge Finder Authorized Dealer.

Users scanning MEDLINE, CANCERLIT and specialty medical databases may search the STAT!-Ref. full text database without altering the FreeForm search strategy.

The STAT!-Ref. CD-ROM disc contains entries from ten (10) Appleton-Lange full text publications. It also contains full text Scientific American Medicine and full text A.H.F.S. Drug Information database (the **American Society of Hospital Pharmacists**). STAT!-Ref. is updated quarterly under the annual use license.

Knowledge Finder® STAT!-Ref.® is available via Personal, Institutional and Network Use Licenses. Call for details.•

Knowledge Finder® Search Formulation

Free-Form Topic Search Statement	Search Progress
myocardial infarction thrombolytic therapy and risks of bleeding	Search History
	100 of 13569 Documents May Be Relevant

Summaries from STAT!-Ref.® Electronic Reference
Double-click on Summary for greater detail...
1. ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION...CORONARY HEART DISEASE...8. Heart & Great Vessels...CURRENT MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS & THERAPY - 1990 (Lange)
2. CORONARY ARTERY THROMBOSIS AND MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION...Uses...Alteplase...THROMBOLYTIC AGENTS (20:40)...DRUG INFORMATION '90 (A.H.F.S.)
3. thrombolytic therapy...Initial In-Hospital Treatment...X ISCHEMIC HEART DISEASE: ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION...1 CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE...Scientific American MEDICINE - June 1990
4. EFFECTS ON HEMOSTASIS...Cautions...Alteplase...THROMBOLYTIC AGENTS

Sample STAT!-Ref. Search

Knowledge Finder Tips:

Many citation retrieval systems utilize Keyword indices. These Keywords can be linked via tables to appropriate citations. Professional indexers often refer to an author's suggested Keyword list when applying hierarchical indices (such as the National Library of Medicine's MeSH®-- Medical Subject Headings index--which is used with the MEDLINE® database).

Because Keyword lists quickly grow some additional culling techniques are needed to manage citation retrieval. Frequently Keyword searching is used to limit searches to titles only. This assumes that Keywords in the title clearly describe a citation's contents. Unfortunately, critical concepts are not always reflected in titles.

Knowledge Finder's unique FreeForm search method is based upon Probabilitstic Retrieval theory. This theory presumes that several scientists discussing a particular topic will use very similar words. It also uses mathematical modeling to Relevance Rank the search results.

Knowledge Finder searches on *all* words. Those found in titles, abstracts and even in the professional indices (eg. MeSH Indices, Subject Check Tags, Cancergrams, etc.). Statistics are gathered on usage frequency, relative importance of each hit location and the number of times the word appears in the entire database. These statistics are used in proprietary formulas for Relevance Ranking the results.

(Actually, Knowledge Finder ignores very common words, such as "and, or, which, that and what". The Stop Word list is via on-line Help.)

Consider questions like "Myocardial Infarction, Thrombolytic Therapy and Risks of Bleeding..." Which words would you use when discussing this topic? Would you expect some very relevant citations to use drug names, or related terms (such as Fibrinolytic Agents) in their titles? Might not such terms, if found only in abstracts, still be highly valuable?

Knowledge Finder FreeForm users need only enter a few Keywords that describe their topic. FreeForm search strategies are automatic. All citations retrieved are scored for each Keyword found, for its frequency of occurance and for its location. Points awarded vary by each word's specificity.

For instance words such as "injury" and "treatment" are rather common. Because they appear tens of thousands of citations they have low specificity values. But words like "toxicity" and "chemotherapy" appear in far fewer citations. Points awarded for these words are higher.

Keywords found in significant locations, such as titles or professional indices, will receive bonus points. Also bonus points are added when multiple words--especially words with high specificity values--are found in a given citation.

Traditionally, some Keywords are linked in sets. Examples: "Myocardial Infarction," "Thrombolytic Therapy" and "Plasminogen Activator." Knowledge Finder's integrated MeSH Thesaurus retains such associations, but its FreeForm Keyword list does not.

Experience shows using single Keywords, along with the mathematical modeling, most often yields excellent search results.

Citations containing all of the Keywords score quite high. As a result, those citations which are mathematically ranked as most-likely relevant are frequently considered subjectively most-likely relevant by users.

Knowledge Finder automatically searches for *similar* Keywords. Multiple *similar* Keyword hits also increase the score. For example, what was once called an "Infarct" is now an "Infarction." Yet, the old term is still used. "Infarct of the Myocardium..." clearly describes a "Myocardial Infarction" (which became the official MeSH term in 1979). Under Knowledge Finder's search rules both descriptions are considered equally valid.

Similarly, most "British English" and "American English" equivalents are found by automatic character string substitutions.

Such advanced search techniques often improve search results and find highly relevant citations that more traditional methods may miss.•

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